

Department of Human Services

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Articles in Today's Clips Wednesday, August 16, 2006

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State clears DHS of wrongdoing in Rose Kelley case

Genesee County prosecutor still investigating case



By Taryn Asher

GENESEE COUNTY (WJRT) - (08/15/06)--The state has cleared the Department of Human Services of any wrongdoing in the death of a Flint girl who was found dead in deplorable conditions.

The medical examiner says 5-year-old Rose Kelley, who died of liver failure, was murdered by neglect.

But state officials say local DHS workers couldn't intervene because there were no current complaints filed against the family.

According to Michigan's Child Ombudsman, because there were no complaints filed against Kelley's family in the immediate months leading up to her death, Child Protective Services was not obligated to respond.

In a case that has sparked statewide attention, many have pointed fingers at who may be responsible for the death of Kelley.

But according to the State Ombudsman's Office, an independent department that investigates Michigan's child welfare system, the Department of Human Services in Genesee County is not to blame.

Verlie Ruffin says there were no complaints filed against the Kelley family in 2006 when police found the girl infested by lice inside her Flint home filled with feces and garbage.

"The deplorable conditions of this particular instance where little Rose died ... we didn't have a complaint at that particular time," Ruffin said.

"But with past complaints we looked at the issues we looked at the home and followed up on services for the family."

But Ruffin admits if a complaint was filed in the months before Kelley died, she might have been alive today.

"If there was a complaint I believe DHS would have followed through and they may have seen something different than they saw in the past," Ruffin said.

The Ombudsman's Office may have cleared the DHS of any wrongdoing, but the Genesee County prosecutor's office is still looking into whether the parents should be held criminally responsible.

He is also looking into all other aspects of the case.

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Lawmaker questions if DHS should be cleared

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

By Ron Fonger

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FLINT - The chairman of a special state legislative committee on child protection isn't ready to clear the Department of Human Services for its handling of the case of Rose Kelley just because the Office of Children's Ombudsman says so.

State Rep. David Law, R-Commerce Twp., said the ombudsman investigation must be viewed with a critical eye because of the ombudsman's refusal to release key details in child abuse cases and because of perceptions that it isn't independent enough.

"I'm not completely comfortable that it's a completely independent review," Law said Tuesday.

Rose was the 5-year-old Flint girl who died as a result of liver failure and neglect in a filthy, lice-infested home June 3 after her parents decided not to take her to a doctor.

Although DHS had been in contact with the family in 2004 and 2005 after allegations that another child in the home had been medically neglected, the children ombudsman's office said in a letter to Booth Newspapers that the department followed state law, agency rules and policies in the case.

Law said his committee, which visited Flint to hear testimony about Rose's case earlier this month, was turned down when it sought details in the death of 7-year-old Ricky Holland of Williamston, whose adoptive parents are facing murder charges in his death.

Ombudsman Verlie M. Ruffin said Tuesday that she also could not release information about her agency's review of Rose's case, including how often DHS caseworkers visited Rose's N. Franklin Avenue home.

"We did a thorough review looking at all the information" about Rose's case, Ruffin said.

DHS and the ombudsman say state law prohibits them from releasing confidential information from DHS files. DHS has denied The Flint Journal's request under the Freedom of Information Act to release information about Rose's case.

Law and state Rep. David B. Robertson, R-Grand Blanc Twp., said the committee could end up recommending that there be legislative oversight for the ombudsman's office.

QUICK TAKE

About the Office of Children's Ombudsman

- The office concluded that Genesee County's Department of Human Services complied with state laws and policies in response to complaints it received concerning the late Rose Kelley, 5, and her siblings.
- The agency was established by state law to investigate the actions, decisions, policies and protocols of DHS.
- The ombudsman and DHS director are both appointed by the governor.

Some Republicans have argued that it's impossible for the ombudsman to fairly investigate the DHS director's department when both have been appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Law's committee was in Flint on Aug. 3, taking testimony from Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton and others about the performance of DHS in protecting children.

Law asked state Attorney General Mike Cox for help in forcing the ombudsman to release records regarding Ricky's case earlier this year. Ricky may have been bludgeoned to death with a hammer last July.

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Plea made in baby's death

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

IONIA COUNTY -- A Belding woman pleaded no contest to second-degree murder in the death of her disabled 3-month-old daughter. Amy Jo Nash, 23, was scheduled for trial today in the March 13, 2005, death of her daughter, Janie. She was accused of intentionally leaving her daughter -- born with spina bifida, which leads to nerve damage and leg paralysis -- face-down on a pillow. She said in a written confession that she snapped under the pressure of her daughter's medical condition. "I know laying Janie on a pillow face down she would die," she told police. Nash is expected to be sentenced in about six weeks. The charges carry a sentence of up to life in prison.

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Man, 25, to stand trial in shaken-baby death

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

By Steven Hepker

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A Jackson man will stand trial in the shaking death of his girlfriend's infant daughter.

Jackson County District Judge James Justin on Tuesday bound David Monroe over to Circuit Court on charges of felony murder, second-degree murder and first-degree child abuse.

City police say Monroe, 25, admitted he shook 3-week-old Jaylan Monroe-Romer the night of April 25.

"Eventually he broke down and indicated he did shake the baby two or three times," Detective Dean Schuette Jr. testified in Monroe's preliminary hearing. "He was frustrated that the child would not stop fussing."

Among the evidence submitted Tuesday were Monroe's alleged confession, a letter of apology to the baby's mother, Tomi Romer, and the autopsy report by Dr. Bader Casin.

Casin ruled the baby suffered brain swelling and bleeding, and damage to her optic nerve and retina -- hallmarks of shaken-baby syndrome.

Schuette testified doctors at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor held little hope the girl would survive when she arrived early on the morning of April 26. They removed life support and she was declared dead April 29.

Romer, 22, testified Monroe was not the baby's father, but he moved in with her in August and acted as a father to her 4-year-old daughter, Haley, and to Jaylan, born March 29.

She said a friend, Kevin, visited briefly with her the night of April 25 and held Jaylan while Monroe slept. The baby fell asleep and awoke at 11 p.m., at which time Monroe gave her a bath, Romer said.

Romer said she fell asleep watching a movie in the living room.

"David woke me at 1 a.m. and said something is wrong," Romer testified. "She was breathing funny."

Schuette testified that Monroe said the baby's eyes closed and she stopped crying when he shook her. He went to bed, then became concerned about the baby and went to her crib, finding her limp, Schuette said of Monroe.

Under cross examination by defense attorney Jerry Engle, the detective said Monroe never indicated he intended to hurt the baby.

"He knew that what he was doing could cause serious harm," Assistant Prosecutor Jessica Sutherland said in arguing for the murder charges.

Engle said that, whether Monroe's alleged actions amount to "wanton disregard" for the likelihood of harm or death is a question for a jury.

Monroe initially waived his preliminary hearing with the intention of pleading to second-degree murder, thus avoiding a chance of felony murder and a life sentence. He changed his mind in Circuit Court and the case was sent back to District Court.

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Mom, man accused in rape of daughter

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

By Scott Hagen

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A Michigan Center woman is accused of helping her boyfriend rape her 11-year-old daughter, who has cerebral palsy.

April Kurtz, 30, and her boyfriend, 18-year-old Justin Howard, are expected to be charged today in District Court with first-degree criminal sexual conduct for their alleged actions of this past weekend.

Both are facing an additional charge of making child pornography for allegedly taking naked photos of the girl.

Troopers with the Michigan State Police post in Jackson arrested the couple Monday night.

The girl, who spent the weekend at her mother's home in Michigan Center, returned Monday to her paternal grandmother's house in Albion, where she lives most of the time. The girl told her grandmother Howard raped her and that Kurtz helped, police and prosecutors say.

The girl told police she was with her mother and Howard on Saturday night. Police later learned Kurtz and Howard were exchanging text messages on their cell phones while the girl was in the room. In the messages, Howard told Kurtz he wanted to have sex with the 11-year-old.

The girl has cerebral palsy, a degenerative illness that affects the central nervous system and cognitive function, and needs help to walk.

Police said the couple took off the girl's clothes, positioned her in sexually explicit positions and snapped pictures using cameras on their cell phones. Howard then started having intercourse with the girl, police and prosecutors said, and Kurtz helped in some way.

At one point, the girl told police she asked Howard to stop because it hurt.

The Citizen Patriot generally does not name victims of alleged sexual abuse to protect their identities. It normally does not name their parents, either, but is doing so in this story because the girl and her mother have different last names.

Kurtz and Howard have been dating about a year, since right after he turned 17.

If convicted of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, Howard and Kurtz would face up to life in prison and a mandatory 25-year sentence. The charge of making child pornography carries a maximum 20-year penalty.

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Published August 16, 2006

Woman acquitted of child abuse; regrets spanking 13-year-old son

Mother calls verdict 'just', makes decision to rescind adoption

By Lisa Roose-Church
Special to the State Journal

A Putnam Township mother acquitted Tuesday of child abuse said she had no choice but to rescind the adoption of her 13-year-old son, whom she was accused of beating when she spanked him for discipline problems.

Although Darcy-Ann Cervelli believes the verdict "was just," she said it saddens her to realize she could not help her son, Shane Cervelli, whom she described as a troubled child who lacks the ability to bond with others.

"It was a horrendous decision," the 38-year-old single mother said about her giving up her son. "It took me five months to do that. I just couldn't do it anymore. It was a choice between my daughters and my son. ... I love him, and I will always love him."

Described as a beating

Livingston County prosecutors charged Darcy-Ann Cervelli with second-degree child abuse for the way she spanked Shane Cervelli on March 11. The spanking - described as a beating by prosecutors - was discipline for inappropriate behavior, including lying, stealing and damaging two doors at the family's Cedar Lake Road home, the defense said.

Her actions left more than half of her son's buttocks bruised.

'A just verdict'

A 12-member jury, however, found Darcy-Ann Cervelli not guilty.

"I think it was a just verdict," Royal Oak defense attorney Todd Flood said. "It was the proper result."

Messages seeking comment from Assistant Prosecutor Angela Del Vero, who prosecuted the case, and Prosecutor David Morse went unanswered Tuesday.

Parents' right

Cervelli agreed the jury's verdict was appropriate, and she hopes other parents do not go through the persecution she felt.

She said she still believes parents should have the right to discipline their children, although she is not an advocate of corporal punishment.

"I made that choice because I was desperate," she said. "It made me cry when I saw the bruises on my son that I caused. I would never intend to hurt my son, but it was on his behind and it was only meant for discipline."

For herself, Darcy-Ann Cervelli said she plans to return to teaching special education in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools district. She was suspended, but since has been reinstated, she noted.

"I love my son," she repeated. "I will always love my son."

Contact Lisa Roose-Church of the Livingston County Daily Press & Argus at (517) 552-2846 or lrchurch@gannett.com.

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Boardstands by its man

Administration backs principal's version of events

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

By Chad Livengood

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The Jackson School Board is standing behind a principal who didn't inform district officials that a convicted drug dealer was working with children in his school.

After nearly two hours of discussion closed to the public Tuesday at Ella Sharp Museum, the board issued a statement backing the administration's light discipline of William Patterson last week for not disclosing in 2003 that Wilson Elementary School teacher's aide Tonia M. Jones had pleaded guilty to dealing cocaine.

"Mr. Patterson responded based on the knowledge he had at the time," the statement read. "There is no evidence he intentionally attempted to cover up the criminal activity of Tonia Jones."

Patterson, currently assistant principal at the Middle School at Parkside, received a "letter of concern" last week from district officials -- the lowest form of discipline, Superintendent Dan Evans said.

After her conviction, Jones, 31, continued to work for the district and serve 60-day sentences in the summer. She later worked at Cascades, McCulloch and Hunt elementary schools. The district fired Jones on Feb. 1 after she was sent to prison for continuing to maintain a drug house.

District officials said they did not investigate the matter further after they fired Jones.

The Citizen Patriot looked into the situation after Jones' name appeared on the statewide list of convicted school felons in late June.

A July 30 story -- supported by documents from the state Department of Corrections and interviews with corrections and court officials -- reported that Patterson knew about the conviction and didn't inform anyone at the district's Central Office.

When first contacted about Jones by the Citizen Patriot on June 24, Patterson denied knowing about Jones' conviction. Later that week, Patterson told Evans that he had known about the conviction but didn't think it was his responsibility to report it to Central Office, Evans said.

Patterson and his union, the Jackson Public Schools Administrators Association, maintain that because of "confidentiality issues" it wasn't Patterson's job to inform his bosses of Jones' conviction.

District officials said their subsequent investigation found Patterson did nothing wrong intentionally and children were not endangered by Jones' continued employment. Board President David Halsey said the board also sided with Patterson's account, which contradicts court and corrections officials.

"That's what we found," Halsey said.

"William has a different story."

The board's statement read: "The Board regrets and is disappointed that Mr. Patterson was tried in the newspaper before the Jackson Public School Board was able to fully investigate the matter."

The statement said Patterson "did not in any way misrepresent the facts to the Jackson Citizen Patriot or anyone else."

Editor Eileen Lehnert today said the newspaper stands behind its reporting on William Patterson.

"We are in the business of accurately reporting the news," she said. "We don't make things up."

Patterson's reason for nondisclosure of Jones' drug conviction may give rise to revising the district's employee code of conduct guidelines.

Debra Jackson, executive director of human resources, plans to fulfill the board's request.

"I'm going to pursue that," she told the board.

Because of a potential conflict of interest, Patterson's sister, board member Sheila Patterson, did not participate in the closed-session discussion.

Jones is the daughter of Ted Jones, a retired JPS operations director.

In a July 20 interview over a separate matter, Sheila Patterson described Jones as a family friend and defended the paraprofessional of 10 years.

"She is a nice young lady," Sheila Patterson said.

"I think she got mixed up with the wrong group of people."

The board's statement says "the relationship between Tonia Jones and William Patterson was on a professional basis only."

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St. Luke's rent crisis

Tuesday, August 15, 2006

St. Luke's Clinic, now in its fourth year of operation in the former Doctors Hospital building, faces a rent increase that is tantamount to eviction. That will pose a health-care challenge for the community, as St. Luke's provides low-cost care for the needy.

A few days ago, clinic officials received notification from their landlord, Borgess Hospital of Kalamazoo, that their \$50 monthly rent would be raised to \$1,500 as of Sept. 1. Borgess' rationale is simple: The clinic should be paying more of its own way, and Borgess can't afford to continue giving St. Luke's what amounts to a free ride year after year. You can't fault Borgess for this pragmatic, business-like position. Fortunately, the hospital followed up its edict with a three-month grace period.

So we want to suggest to the community how valuable St. Luke's is, and why it is a worthy candidate for rescue.

If U.S. census data are correct, Jackson County has roughly 16,000 uninsured residents. Various care options exist in the community to provide those people with care -- including Foote Hospital, the Center for Family Health and St. Luke's Clinic. The latter is an especially cost-effective way to provide services, for the clinic's annual budget this year is only \$90,000.

How can medical care be provided so inexpensively to about 100 people a week? One reason is that it operates entirely on donations and grants, and with 65 volunteers. Another reason is suggested in the very name of the clinic -- St. Luke's. That name alludes to the so-called "beloved physician" of New Testament Christianity. Like many well-known charitable enterprises, St. Luke's is as much ministry as it is service.

This rent crisis might be worth the fleeting uncertainty -- if someone takes notice and comes to the rescue. Ideally, St. Luke's should have its own property and no rental expense. No question, this is a financial challenge for the clinic.

The community can ill afford to lose St. Luke's. With all the connections and resources in Jackson, we hope to see a resolution of the crisis soon.

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Jackson Citizen Patriot Letters

August 16, 2006

Credit where it's due

JACKSON -- After the Aug. 7 front-page article in the Jackson Citizen Patriot, we have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of concern for continued existence of St. Luke's clinic. Thank you all! With the continual support of our community and volunteers, we will strive to maintain our efforts to provide care for the uninsured.

Some of the people who have contacted us also carried a message of anger -- anger that the clinic was being treated unfairly by Borgess Health Alliance. Please understand that we have not and are not being mistreated! In fact, just last Thursday, Borgess gave the clinic a three-month extension before implementing the new rental agreement. Without Borgess' generosity over the past three years (it is among the top four contributors to St. Luke's), we would have been severely limited in the services we have been able to provide. How fortunate we are that a Kalamazoo-based health system has supported us for three years!

Always remember, this is a volunteer, nonprofit organization. We must receive before we can give, whether it be doctors, nurses, staff volunteers or philanthropic organizations. Borgess is one of the many organizations that provided and still provides us with a means to help people. We thank it and understand that it is not in the position to fund St. Luke's indefinitely. We have great faith in the Jackson community's ability to rally in support of St. Luke's Clinic.

-- Phyllis Kusisto RN

clinic coordinator

and board of directors

St. Luke's Clinic

August 16, 2006

Medicare Sees No Rise in Premium for Drugs

By [ROBERT PEAR](#)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 — Federal officials announced Tuesday that the average premium for Medicare prescription drug coverage next year would be about \$24 a month, which is the same as this year and 40 percent less than first estimated for 2007.

Beneficiaries showed a strong preference for low-cost plans this year. In many regions, Humana offered the lowest premium — as little as \$1.87 a month in seven states including Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota. Many plans charged less than \$20 a month, though at least one charged more than \$100 a month.

The drug benefit is delivered by private insurance companies under contract to Medicare. Insurers compete with one another by offering lower premiums and more extensive benefits. The competition and the choices made by beneficiaries evidently drove down the average premiums for this year and next.

“Competition and choice in health care are working,” said Dr. [Mark B. McClellan](#), administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Premiums for a particular plan may rise next year. But, Dr. McClellan said, “the vast majority of beneficiaries will have access to Medicare drug plans that cost them the same as or less than their coverage in 2006.”

In March 2005, the government predicted that the average drug premium would be \$37 a month in 2006, rising to \$41 in 2007. In August 2005, federal officials lowered the estimate for this year to \$32, based on the proposals submitted by drug plan sponsors. In June, after seeing which plans were chosen by beneficiaries, the administration said the average premium turned out to be about \$24.

Dr. McClellan said the average premium would remain around \$24 if beneficiaries stayed in the same drug plans in 2007 and could decline if they again chose less costly

plans.

Lower premiums save money for beneficiaries and the government. Medicare pays insurers a subsidy, which is about three times as much as the beneficiary's premiums.

Premiums are not the only measure of cost. Drug plans also charge co-payments, and different plans cover different drugs. So a beneficiary who takes nine drugs might find that a plan with a premium of \$55 a month costs less over all than one with a \$12 premium.

Many insurers set premiums low this year in the hope that they could entice beneficiaries to sign up, so the companies would win large shares of the potentially huge, lucrative market for Medicare drug coverage.

"Some plans decided to operate at cost, or below cost, to get a substantial share of the market," said Babette S. Edgar, a former Medicare official who is now a consultant at the Gorman Health Group. "But plans cannot sustain that strategy and still make a profit."

Plans would eventually have to increase premiums to become or remain profitable, Ms. Edgar said.

Vicki Gottlich, a lawyer at the Center for Medicare Advocacy, a nonprofit group that counsels beneficiaries, said: "We do not know enough to determine whether the low premiums in 2007 are good for beneficiaries. Plans may be keeping costs low by unduly restricting access to the drugs they cover."

About 16.5 million beneficiaries are in free-standing prescription drug plans. More than 6 million beneficiaries are in managed care plans that cover hospital care and doctors' services as well as prescription drugs. People can sign up for drug coverage or switch plans from Nov. 15 to Dec. 31.

Companies that want to offer drug coverage submit proposals specifying the total amount they need to be paid by the government and beneficiaries. Dr. McClellan said the bids submitted by drug plans for 2007 were, on average, 10 percent lower than those for 2006. And the bids for drug coverage offered by managed care plans were lower still — about 18 percent less than in 2006, he said.

Managed care plans, known as Medicare Advantage plans, can coordinate a patient's care, and the skillful use of medications can help control spending on other services, Dr.

McClellan said. Insurers can use some of those savings to reduce premiums for drug coverage.

People with low incomes pay no premiums or reduced premiums for drug coverage, if they sign up for low-cost plans charging less than a specified amount. Medicare officials said they were using their authority to minimize the number of low-income beneficiaries who would need to shift plans next year. Seven out of eight beneficiaries receiving extra help can stay in their current plans and will not have to pay any premium for drug coverage in 2007, the officials said.

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Michigan Report

August 15, 2006

HARDIMAN JOINS GROUP IN CALL FOR ACTION ON HIV/AIDS TREATMENT

NASHVILLE – [Sen. Bill Hardiman](#) (R-Kentwood) joined a group of four southern state lawmakers on Tuesday to call on Congress to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act that provides medical care for people infected by HIV/AIDS.

Earlier in the year, Mr. Hardiman introduced [SR 95](#), which passed the Senate, which called on Congress to do the same thing.

Mr. Hardiman said that having access to treatment is critical, and that while the act should be reauthorized, it should also be changed to include patients with HIV in the funding formula.

“Too many patients are being penalized by congressional inaction,” he said. “The status quo is not acceptable when people’s lives are at stake.”

While HIV/AIDS is a national crisis, in Michigan as well, 62 percent of the newly diagnosed cases are African Americans, while other minorities and women make up most of the rest of new cases.



14-year-old pleads no contest to assaulting officers

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

DARRYL Q. TUCKER

THE SAGINAW NEWS

A Saginaw teen has entered a plea in adult court on charges he assaulted two Saginaw police officers last spring before one of them shot him.

DeVaughntae Q.D. Woods, 14, pleaded no contest Tuesday in Saginaw County Circuit Court to assault with intent to murder Officers Diane Ifill and/or Oscar Lopez and possessing a firearm while committing a felony.

A no contest plea means a defendant does not contest prosecutors' evidence but is willing to accept the punishment.

Circuit Judge William A. Crane will sentence Woods on Thursday, Sept. 28. Crane said he wants to review the teen's pre-sentence report before deciding whether to sentence him as an adult or juvenile. Woods is in the County Detention Center on a \$450,000 bond.

In return for Woods' plea, prosecutors have agreed to dismiss charges of assault with intent to commit murder, felonious assault and carrying a concealed weapon.

Woods was an eighth-grader at Ricker Middle School in Buena Vista Township. Police said that April 4, Woods, armed with a gun, struggled with Ifill when Lopez arrived to assist her.

Lopez shot Woods in the abdomen. Woods was 13 at the time. v

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— THE — ANN ARBOR NEWS

Attempt to scare man has fatal ending

Security guard drove off homeless with gunshots, police say

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

BY SUSAN L. OPPAT

News Staff Reporter

A security guard at a Detroit auto salvage yard often fired a shotgun toward homeless people who tried to break into the yard to sleep in vehicles there.

Late Thursday night or early Friday morning, the guard's aim apparently was too accurate when he shot a homeless man twice in the back, said Michigan State Police First Lt. Monica Yesh. He then loaded the victim's body in a truck, and dumped it along a Salem Township road in Washtenaw County, where it was found Friday afternoon.

That's the story Yesh said police have gotten from the guard, a 50-year-old Brownstown Township man who was in a Detroit police station lockup awaiting arraignment today on unspecified charges. He was scheduled to be arraigned in Wayne County on Tuesday, but the hearing was postponed until the investigation was finished, Yesh said.

She chalked the arrest up to "excellent police work" on the part of investigators from the Ypsilanti State Police Post,

Detroit police, Washtenaw County Sheriff's deputies and Ann Arbor Police.

The victim, 51-year-old

Edward Browder, had no

identification, Yesh said. She said police used his fingerprints to identify him. He had a

criminal record for nonviolent, mostly drug-related offenses.

Yesh said police went to his last-known address and were told he hung out at Michigan Auto Recovery and Storage in southwest Detroit.

She said investigators talked to a security guard there, who told them he sometimes shot at homeless people who tried to break into the salvage yard and sleep in the cars.

"No one felt they should call police" about the shooting, Yesh said, because the homeless weren't supposed to be there.

She said "one thing led to

another" during a conversation with the guard, and "he confessed he shot a man a couple of times, loaded the body in the back of a pickup truck, and took him to Salem Township," where he dumped the body

alongside a road Friday afternoon.

She said the suspect told

police he was trying to frighten Browder away from the lot.

Yesh said the shooting

occurred late Thursday or early Friday and that Browder was shot twice in the back with a shotgun. She said the suspect, whose name has not been

released, has no criminal record.

Investigators said in a press release issued early Tuesday that they found the suspect

preparing to paint his truck and found the weapon that killed Browder in his home, along with 65 other handguns, rifles and shotguns.

A call to the salvage yard was not returned.

Susan Oppat can be reached at soppat@annarbornews.com or at 734-482-1166.

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ClickOnDetroit.com

Police: Guard Shot, Killed Homeless Man

Body Found Dumped In Salem Township

POSTED: 5:30 pm EDT August 15, 2006

DETROIT -- An arrest has been made in connection with a body found dumped along a Salem Township road last week.

Edward Browder, 51, was found dead along the road on Friday by a father and son who passed by, Local 4 reported. Police said Browder was homeless, but they managed to trace him to an auto salvage yard on Detroit's southwest side.

Investigators learned from other homeless people in the area that they would often sneak into the salvage yard looking for change or something to panhandle. They said they were sometimes shot at by the security guard, Local 4 reported.

Police tracked down the security guard, a 50-year-old man from Brownstown Township, whose name was not released. Investigators said he confessed to shooting Browder while trying to scare him out of the yard.

Police said the suspect then drove the body in his pickup truck to Salem Township and dumped it, Local 4 learned.

When police went into the man's Brownstown Township home with a warrant for the weapon used, they found 65 short and long guns, a collection worth about \$100,000, Local 4 reported.

"It is alarming to understand why someone would need this many weapons. He wasn't a weapons dealer," said Michigan State Police Lt. Ann McCaffrey.

The suspect was expected to be arraigned Tuesday night or Wednesday, Local 4 reported. He does not have a criminal record, according to police.

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August 14, 2006

The house(s) that Jim built

Pellston is in line for an apparently much-needed low-income subsidized housing and one village leader in particular has been singled out for praise in helping bring the opportunity to town.

“The housing we have now for low income people is just old mobile trailers and ramshackle houses,” said village president Jim Gillett at a recent groundbreaking ceremony for the \$3.4-million development. “This puts them into quality housing for about the same monthly cost.”

The one-, two- and three-bedroom units will rent for \$290 to \$360 a month and increase the village's housing stock by more than 10 percent.

The project will provide rent-restricted housing for families with incomes between 30 and 60 percent of area median income.

While Gillett was aglow over the opportunity for his village, there was praise of his own efforts.

Developer Gerry Haan credited Gillett with spearheading the project. Haan said he had been trying to build affordable housing in Northern Michigan for some time, but he found it a difficult task until he approached Pellston.

“I was greeted by a village that was innovative and forward-thinking, and Jim Gillett led the way,” Haan said at the ceremony. “He was very helpful and relatively easy to work with, and very thorough. That led the way for working with the state housing development authority.”

Contributors to the project include the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), which made a tax-exempt loan of \$1.5 million, and the federal government, which assisted with low income housing tax credits of \$1.06 million and \$564,000.

Pellston is giving up future tax revenue to help subsidize the venture.

This project demonstrates a private/public partnership where people with real need are the also benefiting. And, this development could lead to more housing as there is more land and an intent to explore private homes in the future.

Gillett and other Pellston officials are to be commended for helping bring this project to a community in need of such housing. It is a good use of taxpayer supported incentives, with tangible results the voters can see.

Michigan Report

August 15, 2006

STATES COMPETE WITH WAR FOR FEDERAL FUNDS

NASHVILLE – While revised estimates on federal revenues for 2006 and 2007 show an uptick, states are still competing for dollars with big ticket items like the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, Marcia Howard, executive director of Federal Funds Information for States, told an audience here during the National Conference of State Legislatures on Tuesday.

Looking to the upcoming fiscal year, Ms. Howard said discretionary spending is likely to be flat at best. While spending has increased for defense, domestic spending continues to be eroded as Congress usually enacts a 1 percent across-the-board cut at the end of their budgeting process.

Ms. Howard said that while block grants and justice programs for states will survive, they will be hit by funding cuts.

No observers expect the FY 2007 budget to be finalized before the November mid-term election, and at this point, the House has approved all budgets except for those relating to Health and Human Services, Education and Labor – which comprise a large portion of the domestic spending programs. A proposal to increase the minimum wage has caused the logjam for appropriation bills. In the Senate, appropriation bills still have to be approved on the floor.

Ms. Howard said the good part about the calendar being so tight is that it will be harder to implement any major changes to the federal budget.

In 2005, the federal government saw its revenues reach 2000 levels after years of decreases due to tax cuts and an economic recession. Revised estimates for FY 2006 show that revenues have increased while spending has not, so the deficit will be \$296 billion instead of \$424 billion. However the deficit in FY 2007 is expected to be \$339 billion.

Since the 1970s, individuals have outpaced general purpose and capital project spending to states, Ms. Howard said.

“Medicaid has become the tail that wags the dog,” she said.

However, Medicaid spending has slowed considerably, and in FY 2006 spending was less than the year before although state Medicaid costs for Medicare are growing, especially in the area of premiums. Cost for the next fiscal year is estimated to be \$11.5 billion.

WELFARE WORK REQUIREMENTS: After heavily debating in Michigan the issue of work requirements in terms of assistance to people on state’s welfare system, an

official with the Department of Health and Human Services on Tuesday outlined what federal officials will consider to meeting those guidelines.

Employment will be considered a full or part-time job, while work experience is limited to performing work for an employer in exchange for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families grant. Job search and job readiness assistance is considered seeking or preparing for employment, which could include short-term substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment or rehabilitation services.

Community service is defined by structured work programs for the direct benefit of the community through public or nonprofit organizations, and vocational educational training will be restricted to education directly related to employment that does not require a bachelor's or advanced degree, but it can include remedial and basic education in the context of work.

Michigan Report

August 15, 2006

MINIMUM WAGE: Governor Jennifer Granholm, at a bill signing event Tuesday, rejected arguments, put forward by Republican legislators, that changes to the state's minimum wage law should be made without the need for negotiations. Among other things, the recently-passed wage increase did not include language allowing reductions for tipped employees.

Ms. Granholm argued that the "corrections" being proposed should be considered in light of other legislation that could affect earnings of minimum wage workers. "When you consider taking away something from people," there is room for negotiation, she said.



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING



MARIANNE UDOW
DIRECTOR

News Release

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Child support payments in mid Michigan counties going electronic

August 16, 2006

LANSING – The Department of Human Services' Office of Child Support, in coordination with seventeen mid-Michigan Friends of the Court, will begin disbursing some child support payments through a debit card beginning August 23, 2006. A new law requires all child support payments to be electronically disbursed via direct deposit into a personal checking/savings account or to a debit card, unless recipients meet hardship exception criteria.

The program is being implemented through a rollout process. Fifty-two counties have already transitioned to electronic disbursement. In August Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon and Wexford counties will implement the program.

Customers who currently receive paper checks in these counties have received information in the mail and were given the choice of direct deposit to their checking/savings account or to a debit card. Paper child support checks will no longer be sent out to customers unless they meet the hardship exceptions described in the law.

Before implementation of the law about 30 percent of child support recipients in the state had their payments directly deposited into their personal checking or savings account. Customers currently participating in direct deposit are not required to switch to the debit card.

The new VISA debit cards, which will be issued at no cost to the customer, can be used like any other bank or credit union debit card at millions of locations that accept VISA debit cards - without incurring any fees. Customers can also get cash back with purchases from any of over 29,000 Interlink merchants in Michigan – again without fees. Customers choosing to access debit card funds using an automated teller machine (ATM) will be subject to ATM fees.

In states with electronic disbursement already in place, about two-thirds choose direct deposit to checking/savings and one-third choose direct deposit to debit cards.

Attached to this press release is an overview of electronic disbursement and a statewide implementation schedule.

For more information on electronic disbursement of child support go to the child support section of the DHS Web site, www.michigan.gov/dhs or to www.misdu.com.

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[Name] County Board: [Board • Member • Names]
[ADDRESS] • [CITY], MICHIGAN [Zip Code]
www.michigan.gov • [PhoneNumber]



Michigan Department of Human Services Office of Child Support

ELECTRONIC DISBURSEMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT

- Public Act 548 of 2004 (MCL 400.236(4)) requires that the Michigan State Disbursement Unit (MiSDU) disburse support electronically, either through direct deposit to an individual's checking/savings account or to a debit card.
- One-third of Michigan's child support customers already have direct deposit. All customers will be offered a choice of either direct deposit to checking/savings or debit card. (In other states with electronic disbursement, statistics show that approximately two-thirds chose direct deposit and one-third received a debit card.)
- The debit card option will be phased into electronic disbursement during 2006. See the statewide implementation schedule.
- Electronic disbursement:
 - Provides immediate access to funds.
 - Eliminates mail delays and lost or stolen checks.
 - Eliminates check-cashing fees.
 - Eliminates returned mail and delays when customer has not updated his/her address.
 - Reduces money held by the state waiting for a customer to update his/her address.
 - Makes more efficient use of taxpayer dollars (better service, lower cost).
- Exemptions to electronic disbursement may be requested/granted for:
 - Individuals with a mental or physical disability that imposes a hardship.
 - Individuals with a language or literacy barrier that imposes a hardship.
 - Individuals with payments that are not recurring (two or less per year), or are not expected to continue in a 12-month period.
 - Individuals with both home and work addresses that are more than 30 miles from an ATM or their financial institution.
- When a customer chooses the debit card, the MiSDU deposits support payments directly to the card. The card can be used just like any Visa-branded card. (Only the MiSDU can deposit money into this account; the cardholder cannot add funds.)
- There is no fee to use the card at the millions of locations that accept Visa debit card for point-of-sale transactions (grocery stores, retailers, gas stations, etc.).
- Customers can also get cash back with purchase from Interlink merchants without any fee. There are over 29,000 Interlink merchants in Michigan.
- Each cardholder can also receive cash back free of charge from any bank or credit union that process Visa cash advances at the teller window.
- Customers who choose to use an ATM to access their debit card funds will pay ATM fees. Today, customers without checking/savings accounts have few alternatives to paying check-cashing fees.
- For additional information on electronic disbursement go to the child support section of the DHS Web site www.michigan.gov/dhs or www.misdu.com



Michigan Department of Human Services
Office of Child Support

**Electronic Disbursement of Child Support
 Statewide Implementation Schedule**

MONTH*	COUNTY
2005 November	Pilot Counties: Muskegon, Shiawassee, Marquette
2006 January	Oakland
February	Huron, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola
March	Macomb
April	Genesee
May	Alcona, Alger, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Iosco, Iron, Kalkaska, Keweenaw, Leelanau, Luce, Mackinac, Menominee, Montmorency, Ontonagon, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Schoolcraft
June	Kent
July	Berrien, Branch, Cass, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Saint Joseph, Van Buren
August	Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon, Wexford.
September	Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Washtenaw
October	Allegan, Gratiot, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Saginaw
November	Barry, Calhoun, Jackson, Monroe
December	Wayne

*This is the month in which the first of the three notices is sent to clients asking them to return the request for direct deposit or a debit card will be sent. Within two weeks after the first notice, a second notice is sent to those who have not chosen direct deposit to request again that they choose direct deposit or receive a debit card. Approximately two weeks after the second notice, a third notice is sent to those who have not chosen direct deposit to let them know they will receive a debit card. They receive a debit card approximately one week after the third notice.